

# Montana Office of Vital Records Newsletter

## 2015 Legislative Highlights Affecting Vital Records

### Increased Fees for Death Certificates

The 2015 Legislature passed a \$3.00 increase in fees for most death certificates, to be effective immediately on passage. The Governor signed the bill on May 4, 2015.

For **County Registrars**, the new fee schedule is

- \$15.00 for each original certified copy of a death certificate, and
- \$6.00 for each additional certified copy of the same record ordered at the same time.
- The fee for an informational copy of a death certificate remains at 50 cents. This is the only fee that was not affected by the new legislation.

For the **State Registrar's Office**, the new fee schedule is

- \$15.00 for each original certified copy of a death certificate,
- \$8.00 for each additional certified copy of the same record ordered at the same time, and
- \$13.00 for each informational copy of a death certificate.

The fee increases will be in effect through June 30, 2017.

### Governor Vetoes Changes in Birth Certificate

Governor Bullock vetoed the senate bill that would have required written permission from parents to complete a substantial part of the birth certificate, including information such as birth weight, gestational age, and many other fields widely used by Public Health to monitor the health of mothers and babies in Montana. The poll to override the Governor's veto did not achieve the necessary 2/3 majority. In other news about birth registration, the State Registrar's Office distributed packets to local Registrars to give to parents who need to register home births. Parents will send this information to the State Registrar's Office.

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## Meet the new Fetal, Infant, Child and Maternal Mortality Review Coordinator



Kari Tutwiler joins the DPHHS Family and Community Health Bureau/Public Health and Safety Division as the Health Education Specialist Quality Improvement. She will serve as the state coordinator for the Fetal, Infant, Child, & Maternal Mortality Review (FICMMR). She brings a 20-year background in higher education administration and four years working in the area of public health.

Growing up in a military family, Kari transitioned easily while working at state colleges in Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. She began her career at a large, downtown, commuter college in Denver, Metropolitan State College. She worked in public relations for athletics and alumni relations organizing, publicizing and implementing programs and special events while recruiting and empowering volunteers. She helped advise the college's first Black and Hispanic Alumni Chapters

and implemented the college's first professional development series for alumni. She rounded out her 14-year career at Metro State helping students develop and sharpen their leadership skills in the Student Activities Office.

She continued working in the student leadership field at Washington State University in Pullman where she led the office of Student Programs. Two years later, she moved 6 miles down the road and joined the recruiting office at the University of Idaho. As a Vandal, she supervised the database and call center staff and planned, promoted and implemented all recruiting events.

Kari landed in Helena at DPHHS and worked for the Children's Mental Health Bureau spearheading marketing efforts for the federal Children's System of Care grant from 2006-2009. When the grant ended, she secured work in the Southeast desert of Washington State in the marketing office of a credit union and as a writer for the Washington State University Tri-Cities branch campus. After five years in the Tri-Cities, the itch was strong to return to Montana so she returned to the Queen City in 2014.

She obtained her journalism degree from Utah State University and a Master's Degree in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University.

As a youth, her father's Army career took them to Germany, the East coast, West Coast, Mid-West, and the Rocky Mountains. Her passions include family, reading, biking, travel, and green chile. She is always on a quest for superior green chile!

Please see an article related to FICMMR activities on page 4.

## Change Your Bookmarks – VSIMS has a new address

VSIMS (the Vital Statistics Information Management System) for entering Birth, Death and Marriage has changed its URL (web address) to:

[https://app.hhs.mt.gov/pls/vsims\\_login/vsb\\_logon\\_pkg.start\\_frames](https://app.hhs.mt.gov/pls/vsims_login/vsb_logon_pkg.start_frames)

This change was due to server changes and also to allow Clerk and Recorders to issue Birth and Death Certificates using a more secure Java setting.

If you have any questions about the change, please contact the Office of Vital Records at (406) 444-2685

We thank you for your cooperation and patience.

## Birth Registration Gold Star for Excellence Recipients

The state average for on-time registration in the first quarter of 2015 was 90%. The following facilities received birth registration Gold Stars for Excellence for the quarter. At least 90% of their births were registered within 10 days.

An \* indicates 100% on-time registration.



Anaconda Community Hospital  
Barrett Hospital \*  
Big Horn County Memorial Hospital \*  
Cabinet Peaks Medical Center \*  
Central Montana Hospital \*  
Frances Mahon Deaconess \*  
Great Falls Family Birth Center \*  
Holy Rosary Healthcare \*  
Kalispell Regional Medical Center \*  
Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital

Missoula Birth Center  
Missoula Community Medical Center \*  
NEMHS—Trinity Hospital  
North Valley Hospital  
Northern Montana Hospital  
Sidney Health Center \*  
St. James Healthcare  
St. Joseph Hospital  
St. Luke Community Hospital \*  
St. Vincent Healthcare \*

## Notes From the Field: FICMMR Team Turns Data Into Prevention

The death certificates you file serve many purposes. One may surprise you: Prevention. Fetal, Infant, Child, and Maternal Mortality Review (FICMMR) Teams in each county use death certificates, linked to other sources of data available to them, to review each death for potential preventability. Here is an example of a prevention activity by a local team.

### Texting Tragedy Is Powerful Education Tool

Mary Sundheim, Injury Prevention Coordinator  
Richland County Health Department

The Richland County Health Department has turned a texting-while-driving death into a multi-community outreach effort to prevent future tragedies. At its core, it is a presentation by the family of a Janae Moore, who was killed in a one vehicle roll over crash while texting and driving. Her family makes presentations at area high schools and community events to get their message out. The family is partnering with the Richland County Health Department, the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP), the responding Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and the Sidney Health Center. They have presented to 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders at Sidney, Lambert, Savage and Fairview High Schools in Richland County and at Dickinson State University, where Janae was a basketball player. At every school, each student and staff member pins their promise not to text and drive to a vinyl banner, “Moore Than a Promise,” that hangs in the school. Presentations will continue in the fall at the Richey, Circle and Glendive Schools. The Richland County Injury Prevention Team also offered a community presentation to the public on April 27, 2015 in Sidney.

Janae’s sister Jozi shares the family’s experience on the day of the accident. Nyle Obergfell, the MHP trooper who investigated the accident, speaks and is followed by the responding EMT who talks about what responders found and what they do in the situation of a vehicle crash. Most of the speakers bring the tools of their trade to demonstrate what goes on at the site of an accident: a tape measure to show how far the pickup travelled by the skid marks, and an EMT board and neck brace. A student volunteer is strapped to the board to simulate the scene of an accident.

Most dramatically, the presentation spotlights a trailer that holds the extensively damaged pick-up truck Janae was driving. Janae’s family donated the trailer. The Richland County Health Department presented a “Friend of Public Health” award to the family.

This spring and summer, private land owners and businesses have stepped up to help with exposure efforts. The trailer, with a banner asking people not to text and drive, is visible on various highways throughout Richland County. For maximum exposure this past Memorial Day weekend, the trailer was strategically placed in the western part of the county on Highway 200 enroute to a popular recreation area.

Mary Sundheim is the lead organizer of the traveling presentation.

